



# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

## Department of Telecommunications and Cable

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UNDERSECRETARY

**KAREN CHARLES PETERSON**  
COMMISSIONER

June 4, 2020

RE: Petition of Comcast Cable Communications, LLC to establish and adjust the basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates for the communities in Massachusetts served by Comcast Cable Communications, LLC that are currently subject to rate regulation, D.T.C. 19-5

Dear Issuing Authority:

The Department of Telecommunications and Cable ("Department") will hold a public and evidentiary hearing, pursuant to G.L. c. 166A, § 15 and 207 C.M.R. § 6.03, to investigate the proposed basic service tier programming, equipment, and installation rates in rate-regulated communities in Massachusetts served by Comcast Cable Communications, LLC ("Comcast"), in response to Comcast's filings. The hearing will be held by teleconference at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, August 12, 2020, and is a formal adjudicatory hearing conducted under G.L. c. 30A and 207 C.M.R. 1.00. Comcast, as the cable operator serving your community, is required to arrange for notice of the hearing, both by newspaper publication and by cablecasting. G.L. c. 166A, § 15; 207 C.M.R. § 1.06(5). The proceeding is docketed as D.T.C. 19-5. A copy of the hearing notice that Comcast is required to publish is enclosed for informational purposes.

As the issuing authority for a municipality served by Comcast, you may want to participate in this hearing. Please note that under Massachusetts regulations, issuing authorities are not automatic parties to rate proceedings. 207 C.M.R. § 1.03(1). While our proceedings allow for public input from all persons, an interested person may participate as a party only if it files a petition to intervene and the Department grants the petition. *Id.* The petition to intervene must state with specificity how the petitioner is substantially and specifically affected by the rate proceeding. *Id.*

An issuing authority that is granted party status has the right to participate fully in the proceeding, including the right to cross-examine the cable operator's witnesses at the hearing, the right to receive all correspondence and documents provided by the cable operator to the Department, and the right to appeal the Department's Rate Order.

An intervenor is also allowed to participate in discovery. *See* 207 C.M.R. § 1.06(6)(c). For example, the intervenor may submit to the cable operator prior to the hearing written questions related to the rate proceeding, which the cable operator is required to answer. A party that wishes to intervene must file its petition to intervene with the Department by 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, August 5, 2020.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the hearing procedures, please contact me at [mark.merante@mass.gov](mailto:mark.merante@mass.gov) or (617) 368-1114.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Merante', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Mark A. Merante  
Hearing Officer